

SECTION 3103 TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

April 11, 2016

3103.1 General. The provisions of this section shall apply to structures erected for a period of less than 180 days. Tents and other membrane structures erected for a period of less than 180 days shall comply with this section and Chapter 24 of the fire code. Those erected for a longer period of time shall comply with applicable sections of this code.

3103.1.2 Approval required for tents and membrane structures. Temporary tents and temporary membrane structures having either of the following characteristics shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining an approval from the building official. For the purpose of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary tent or membrane structure.

1. An individual tent or membrane structure with an area in excess of 400 square feet (37 m²); OR
2. Multiple tents or membrane structures with an aggregate area in excess of 400 square feet (37 m²) when adjacent temporary tents or membrane structures are located within 12 feet (3,658 mm) of one another.

Exceptions:

1. An approval is not required for tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
2. An approval is not required for tents open on all sides which comply with all of the following:
 - 2.1 Individual tents having a maximum size of 700 square feet (65m²).
 - 2.2 The aggregate area of multiple tents placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet (3,658 mm), not exceeding 700 square feet (65 m²) total.
 - 2.3 A minimum clearance of 12 feet (3658 mm) to all structures and other tents.

3103.2 Construction documents. An application and construction documents shall be submitted for each installation of a temporary structure. The construction documents shall include a site plan indicating the location of the temporary structure and information delineating the means of egress and the occupant load.

3103.3 Location. Temporary structures shall be located in accordance with the requirements of Table 602 based on the fire-resistance rating of the exterior walls for the proposed type of construction.

3103.4 Means of egress. Temporary structures shall conform to the means of egress requirements of Chapter 10 and shall have a maximum exit access travel distance of 100 feet (30, 480 mm).

Checklist for Temporary Structures:

- ☐ Three (3) copies of the certificate of fabric flame-resistance in accordance with NFPA 701.
- ☐ Three (3) copies of a site plan, drawn to scale, to include the following:
 - ✓ The location, size(s) of the tent(s) and any other temporary structures*, respective occupant load(s) and the distance(s) between all such identified tents, structures, buildings and property lines.
 - ✓ Side panels (if any) and exit information.
 - ✓ Staking/Tie-Down information. The tent installer must verify that the tie-down is capable of resisting an uplift of at least 10 pounds per square foot of horizontal tent area. The proposed type of anchoring such as stakes, concrete blocks or water barrels may be site-specific.
 - ✓ Plans must also include a note instructing the occupants to evacuate the tent(s), if necessary, when wind speed meets or exceeds 40 MPH.
 - ✓ Seating layout, aisle widths, path of travel, exit signs and other requirements for tents with sides as applicable per the Ohio Building Code (OBC).
 - ✓ Per the Ohio Fire Code (OFC), tents used for cooking shall be separated from all other tents, canopies and structures by at least 20 feet. Equipment used for cooking shall not be located within 10 feet of an exit or combustible materials.

Structural inspections are required for Temporary Structures.

- ☐ Notarized evidence acceptable to the Chief Building Official, stating all tents meet city code requirements and are safe for their intended use.
- ☐ Construction documents sealed by a registered design professional documenting compliance with the 2011 Ohio Building Code and the 2011 Ohio Fire Code.
- ☐ An electric permit per Section 525, National Electric Code (NEC)

(Required when the lighting and power is hard-wired [new service and panel are being installed] or lighting and power are being supplied by vehicle or trailer mounted generator.

- ✓ When an electric permit is required, the electric contractor must be registered with the City of Columbus.
- ✓ An electric permit is not required when electric power is plugged into permanently mounted existing exterior GFCI receptacles or connection is made to a small portable generator similar to generators used to supply electric to single family homes.
- ✓ Public festivals or special events that do not feature tents but do require an electric permit will be required to obtain an electrical permit at the fee prescribed in the fee schedule for Public festivals.

Electrical inspections are required for electric permits.